

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS) AND TRIBAL
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING
SUMMARY**

**November 14, 2017
744 P Street, OB-9, Room 1804
Sacramento, CA
9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

This document summarizes the key issues discussed at the meeting between Tribal TANF Administrators (TTA) and leaders and CDSS representatives on November 14, 2017.

Elaine Ward confirmed all action items from the August 29, 2017, meeting were completed.

- Email TTAs to request for 1-2 tribal representatives (sent on September 5, 2017)
- Email Heather Hostler's, Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA), contact information (sent on September 12, 2017)

General Updates

Kim Johnson, CalWORKs and Child Care Branch Chief, provided federal updates. Alex Azar is President Trump's potential secretary for Health and Human Services (HHS). He is a former pharmaceutical executive, a HHS general counsel, a top health official during the Bush administration, and has served as the department's second-in-command for two years.

Pending Senate confirmation, Clarence Carter, the director of the Office of Family Assistance, is working on technology and employment opportunities within the program. He will emphasize work requirements and innovative initiatives for the families who are more difficult to reach.

ACF Region IX will be conducting more site visits in the near future. The next technical assistance conference will be held in 2018.

The California CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR) workgroup met on September 29, 2017. The Cal-OAR workgroup has three Tribal TANF representatives. Subcommittees have been formed such as: Continuous Quality Improvement, Indicators and Outcomes, and Data and Automation. The Cal-OAR process will launch July 2019.

Additional legislative updates:

Assembly Bill (AB) 1520, effective January 1, 2018, establishes the Lifting of Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force. The Task Force is tasked with delivering a report to the executive branch and Legislature by November 1, 2018. The report will include an eight year look back on how to eliminate deep child poverty. It should assess short, medium and long term benchmarks used to measure the state's progress toward the goal of addressing child poverty and include recommendations for the future.

AB 557, effective July 1, 2018, provides assistance for victims of domestic violence and establishes that any individual in the CalWORKs assistance unit who is fleeing or wants to flee domestic violence, will be eligible for temporary homeless assistance. Victims of domestic violence will be able to apply for CalWORKs without reporting their alleged abuser's income.

AB 480 implements the Diaper Benefit, a CalWORKs supportive service, which will provide CalWORKs families with \$30 a month per child under 3 years of age, effective April 1, 2018.

The 2017 CalWORKs Training Academy will be held December 5th through the 7th, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento, CA. The theme of this year's Training Academy is: Ready, Set, Engage! Pathways to Opportunity.

An All County Letter (ACL) 17-109 was released on October 30, 2017, providing guidance to counties on the option to administer the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Care Children (Bridge Program). The Bridge Program aims to increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care settings, increase capacity of child care programs to meet the needs of foster children in their care, and maximize funding to support the child care needs of eligible families. Counties have until November 30, 2017, to submit their plans in order to opt in to the Bridge Program.

CalWORKs Program Updates

Elaine Ward, Bureau Chief for the CalWORKs Eligibility Branch, gave CalWORKs program updates. Some of the bills that have passed include:

Senate Bill (SB) 164 grants priority registration to Tribal TANF recipients attending community college.

SB 89 repeals the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) and requires the CDSS to implement a non-biometric identity verification alternative by July 1, 2018.

SB 570 exempts benefits and allowances received through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for education, training, vocation, or rehabilitation from counting as income when determining eligibility and calculating grant amounts for the CalWORKs program.

SB 380, effective November 1, 2018, allows the exclusion of a stepsibling or half-sibling to the family assistance unit if child support payments are received for those children. The child support payments will not count against the CalWORKs grant.

SB 360, effective January 1, 2018, prohibits felony prosecution of an individual for overpayments greater than felony limit and if the county human services agency did not provide a timely and adequate notice of action for the overpayment.

CDSS Tribal Affairs Team

Heather Hostler, Director of the Office of Tribal Affairs, stated she will be hiring another Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) to provide department wide support.

Disaster Services and CalFresh Food Distribution Presentation

Steve Books, Special Advisor for the Disaster Services Bureau, gave a presentation on the different types of disaster mass care teams and available programs when a disaster occurs.

Brian Kaiser, Bureau Chief, and Don Williams, Manager from the CalFresh and Nutrition Branch, presented resources for recipients and non-recipients of CalFresh.

Trauma Informed Care 101 Presentation

Angela Ponivas, Bureau Chief of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP), presented on the effect of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). OCAP issued the Economic Empowerment program which grants \$75,000 per year to provide for the community block grants. There were three Economic Empowerment Grants in the amount of \$75,000 per year set aside for tribal organizations for two years, but no programs applied.

Tribal TANF Program

Ryan Tsukiji, Manager of the Tribal TANF Unit, informed TTAs that the 50% Unemployment Surveys will be distributed by January 2018 in an attempt to get the ACL issued in March/April.

Other Updates

None

NEXT TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS MEETING

Friday, February 23, 2018, 9:00 am – 12 pm (OB-9 Room 205)

CDSS ACTION ITEMS

- Share CalWORKs Training Academy registration information with TTAs (emailed on 11/15/17)
- Propose a different date for the next TTAs' meeting (TTAs proposed February 6th, but CDSS has proposed Friday, February 23, 2018)

PROPOSED PRESENTATIONS

- Child Support Reporting Process Presentation
- Child Welfare or Foster Care Presentation
- First 5 Presentation